

John Stockwell: The CIA Uncovered (1987)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M>)

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Description: Former CIA agent speaks on the Iran-Contra scandal, and explores how it represents the logical outgrowth of United States foreign policy. Stockwell also addresses: CIA involvement in drug smuggling, gun running, and political assassination. Concludes with a question and answer session.

Station: KPFK

Date Recorded on: University of Southern California, 4 Nov. 1987.

See more at: <http://pacificaradioarchives.org/recording/kz1443#sthash.1smRGro.dpuf>

It's a bit hard to get a hold of the actual human beings in charge of this program, but you can have Pacifica shows of your choosing digitized and sent to you. If you have interest in this sort of material, I suggest searching their site for someone or something that interests you politically and then ordering a copy and posting it online.

For more related content, please visit: <https://archive.org/details/@altviewstv-fanclub>

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Oh [Applause] thank you very much can you hear me is this working thank you very much for inviting me to speak on a controversial subject I fully recognized the wide range of opinions I at one time was eager to offer my life to my country through the Marine Corps whatever fighting communists whatever I was lucky in a couple of senses and that I got into Marine Corps second force reconnaissance company which was the elite of the elite and therefore twice as much fun and I was also probably lucky that I was between wars so I had all the fun without having to make the decisions and choosing and and whatnot in the CIA I did get out the level of where people were dying on the battlefield and this led me to reflect somewhat deeper I was in three of the CI Secret Wars the and the Congo dealing with the mutinying CI mercenaries I was up country in Vietnam and came out with evacuation in April 75 and in the Angolan operation I had the job as coordinator for a subcommittee of the National Security Council of the secret war in Angola and I obviously concluded that these things were not productive for US national security that they get our nation in trouble and I testified four days to the Congress it wasn't as dramatic as the recent hearings but the issues were the same and the questions were the same we had conspired to break the law and we had conspired to cover up breaking the law and I felt like I had to participate in in the process of reasserting the system of the government it wasn't question of

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of the government it wasn't question of courage it wasn't a question of Oliver North's courage or my own except in the context that I refused to plead the fifth amendment I figured that we had done what we had done and if it was illegal justice should be done and if it was not illegal we would be vindicated but we had broken laws and I note that if they had in fact done their duty the congressional committees if the prosecutors do their duty then the nation may be spared you know ten years from now or eight years from now a repeat of this thing because we've had six presidents since World War two be humiliated in our country discredited discredited by covert operations that went awry I do offer a reading list we have a great volume of

information available now about the national security activities of our country and other countries these books hundreds of them had not been written when I was faced with the decision of going into the CIA back then so we were not informed as to what it was all about anyone making such a decision today or to join the Marines or what not you have the opportunity to inform yourself and make an intelligent decision I urge you to read for yourselves I urge you not to take anything I'm saying for granted I'm telling you that your leaders lie to you systematically with the purpose and it's important lies that can get you killed and get all of us killed and affect the world we live in and obviously if I'm saying that they lie I could be the one that's like this means that you have to make up your mind whether you're in the ROTC or you're in the peace movement or whatever your instincts are you have to purchase it and go roughly to the effect that them that don't do politics will be done so if you don't get your heads involved then when the bombs start going off someday or you find yourself down on the battlefield somewhere with your legs blown off it's too late then to say gee I wonder what this was all about now it

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I wonder what this was all about now it so happens that we live in a world that's faced with greediest problems Helen Caldicott says our planet is terminally ill what she's talking about is the 70,000 more or less thermonuclear weapons that malfunction all the time that are controlled by visibly fallible often angry men and women we live in a world with serious economic problems of the kind that have led into world in the past the world's richest country our debt has gone from 900 billion to 2.8 billion in the last eight years under this president and we become a debtor nation internationally for the first time in 70 years carrying the largest debt of any nation in the history of the world and this trend is continuing there's a big change in our status in the world and the rest of the world visa vie us the Center for Defense Information counts 40 to 50 wars that are being fought in which they estimate that four or five million people will die there's deep concern that the United States is on the brink of its next war the Central American War now what is this concern people say come on they're not going to put the Marines into Nicaragua let me remind you that the Secretary of Defense in the Secretary of State within the last year approximately of each said publicly that if we did not get aid to the Contras they would have to do it with marine and the president has said that he would not go out of office with the Sun Anita's still in office and these Contras are losers on the battlefield they are not good fighters there's not any chance of their taking power in Managua so for the President to fulfill his promise he's going to have to do it with US Marines now mind I hope it won't happen I think it may be that he will be prevented from doing this but nevertheless as I say the world is concerned that we're on the brink of our next war meanwhile we have oversight committee members of the Congress staffers telling us that the CI is running 50 covert actions around the world today if you read Bob Woodward's book he mentioned different categories of operations that run 40 or 50 each at

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of operations that run 40 or 50 each at one point he mentions a category where he says they were so numerous that the director couldn't count them all so you're really talking about clearly over a hundred possibly hundreds of operations being run by the CIA and these things literally subvert or manipulate or destabilize the other societies so we're running fifty or a hundred or more operations to destabilize other countries in a world that's already about its unstable as it can get and these things then to relate to nuclear arms race and conventional war and CIA destabilization and that's what if anything else I can give you a sense of where to think where to read and where to look to try to understand how these things interrelate how does Nicaragua affect your ability to get a job and make money in a troubled world and the likelihood of our planet being vaporized and the possibility of your being drafted to be sent aloft if you're a young male to die and kill people for quote national security and if that happens what is national security I think you would want to know what you're going off to die for now I will get into the subject of course from my own expertise which was CIA Secret Wars as I said I was in three of them I'll run quickly through the Nicaraguan thing a review I took it instead of Angola the one that I managed myself because you could Aqua has some advantages for the purposes of analysis because it's open on both ends if I pick today for example Chad or Ethiopia are comfo chia you might say how do we know that's true what the United States government is

doing how much money it's spending but in Nicaragua we all know do we not the United States has massively funded the Contra program President Reagan is openly asking for 270 million dollars more we know how the money has been spent but you see what's interesting is it's also open on the other end when we destabilize China when we destabilized Angola Kampuchea today

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we destabilized Angola Kampuchea today very hard from people from the United States to go inside those countries and see for themselves what's happening but the Nicaraguans have kept their country Oakland so people from the United States can go down and see for themselves and dozens of thousands of us have and come back and witness and it's very interesting so we can see it I personally have been down ten times to Nicaragua because I lecture on the subject and here you have a covert action I was in Washington I know the rationales I know how you have decent Christian people rationalizing that we have to stop communism we have to destabilize this communist society but I was able to go down now to talk to the comandante's who are trying to manage your country and administer it while it's being destabilized and look at the agrarian reforms see if they're sincere and talk to women who've been gang-raped by men trained in Florida and literally hold in my lap and put my hands on the nubs of missing limbs of Maine children seeing a totally different aspect of this thing that we decent people rationalized from the National Security Council in Washington this classic corporate action in Nicaragua is of a technique they call destabilization there are different kinds of covert actions this one is straight out of the book my book in fact the parallels between Angola and Nicaragua shocked and you changed the names at first from what we did in Angola and you've got you've got Nicaragua in great detail you set out a destabilization they call it you've set out to put pressure on a targeted government and you do so by ripping the country apart by tearing apart the economic and social fabric of the country of breaking it down the State Department says the purpose of this thing is to attack economic targets now you see the nature of that is that you and I could have a meeting here and discuss you know a program to attack economic targets in a communist country and then obviously we could go home at

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and then obviously we could go home at night and hug our wives or our husbands and our children and feel and be good decent Christian people because what's wrong with attacking the economy of a communist country you see but when you begin to look at it from the other end of the line and we know lots about these operations now in the public record what you're doing is you're setting out the operatives down in the field are hiring people in this case the Contras deliberately trying to set out to create conditions where the farmer can't get his produce to market where children can't go to school where women are terrified of being attacked inside their homes as well as outside their homes where the hospitals are treating wounded people instead of sick people where government administration grinds to a halt an international capital is scared away and the country goes bankrupt and at some point in the chaos and misery you can step in and impose your choice of governments on that country this one began in July 1981 in December the finding the first 19 million dollars was formally allocated in the historical perspective again for analysis we can go back to the Newsweek article November 7 1982 where Newsweek said here we go again we've done this before we have the opportunity and the experience to study what we're getting into we're making a commitment in Nicaragua to some people in Nicaragua and someday we will either have to fulfill that commitment or withdrawal Newsweek knew it noted in this article it said that these Contras form from samosas ex guard were the only truly evil quote only truly evil totally unacceptable factor in the Nicaraguan equation Newsweek said why would we I learn I line ourselves with those particular people in Nicaragua years we've also noted that they were losers then neither the seei nor the White House or the State Department back then thought they had any chance of ever taking power in Managua so Newsweek said why would we be committing ourselves to unsavory losers and then use weak

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unsavory losers and then use weak answers to the question it said the purpose of this program was to push this underneath potential more radical position from which they could be attacked more openly so remember that because I'll get back to it in just a minute so we recruited this force from samosas hated guard and we sent them into the country to destabilize systematically they've been blowing up granary sawmills bridges government offices schools health centers they mine roads they ambushed trucks they raid farms and villages we've got all kinds of documentation ABC NBC CBS CB CB BC camera crews filming this stuff as it happens not to mention the photographs of dozens of thousands of witnesses from this country in Canada and Europe and even as far away as Australia taking pictures of the blown up schools and greeneries and whatnot there's been direct US military involvement which of course means acts of war we have mined the harbors our planes have blown inside the country delivering arms photographing delivering the intelligence to the contra force that's destabilizing the country there's been assassination killing leaders we can give you the lists of names of religious workers and teachers and health workers and elected officials and government administrators now this too is thoroughly documented just to cite one source President Ronald Reagan in his debate on television with Walter Mondale acknowledged the assassination manual in 1984 that the CI had translated from Vietnamese into Spanish and he said this document was the work of the CIA station chief in Tegucigalpa thereby one admitting to the policy of assassination and two admitting that the CI was behind it by the way when the press went to the White House the next week and said wait a minute you said there was a policy in the Reagan administration against assassination how do you now turn around and announce on television that you know acknowledge this document and they came

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acknowledge this document and they came up with a somatic a semantical explanation saying that killing of world leaders was assassination but killing of regional leaders would be called acts of war and the Contras were at war so that wouldn't be assassination so the president hadn't contradicted himself meanwhile we have evidence coming out some of it admitted by the White House of world leaders being killed we have nine hits on world leaders four of these were successful others were not successful but we have the documentation to move this on because we have such a vast amount of ground to cover right now this morning it's a little time I'll hold that for the question an answer but if you want to ask about it I'll give you the information we know about White House admissions of assassination attempts and the evidence we do have and the evidence where world leaders were killed where we don't know the details terrorism as part of this contractility there's no other word for it there can be no other word for it the Contras go into villages they haul families out they make the children watch while they castrate fathers and peel the skin off their faces and put grenades in their mouths and pull the pin they make the children watch while they gang rape mothers and slash their breasts off sometimes they switch it around and make the young mothers watch while they slept 18 month old babies throats once again this is nobody's propaganda it's documented and condemned by the World Court by the Presbyterian Church by the Methodist Church my broad segments of the Catholic Church a month ago the witness for peace organization brought out detailed documentation of the last 84 atrocities that the Contras committed against helpless civilians 41,000 casualties in this thing so far 15,000 people killed that's the figure that the New York Times accepts as a general figure as you know President Reagan isolated in the White House a genuinely friendly decent

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White House a genuinely friendly decent human being he likes to say I'm a contra he likes to call these people the moral equivalent of his founding fathers and I assure you that the people across the world who look at what's happening and go in and film and photograph the results are astonished at this incredible confession of this man's family tradition read read for yourselves there's a great body of documentation or better yet go down and see for yourself now you have a unique opportunity it may be 10 or 20 or 30 years before there is a big u.s. destabilization of a third-world country in which you know what your government is doing no questions about it and you can go down you don't have to get a visa you go through the airport you check through customs you rent a car you get on a bus you tour the country and you see for yourself it's a democracy you have been you have decisions to make in this case you can go down and see for yourselves

now we have the Reagan doctrine spending 1.7 billion dollars in this fiscal year to support low-intensity conflicts as they put it throughout the globe now low-intensity conflicts only the terminology and bragging about it is new we've done these things before once or twice like would you believe the church committee investigated in 1975 and found and reported that it was finding that the CI had run several hundred a year they said that they they found since nineteen in the last fourteen years before they did their study the CI had run 900 major corporate action and several thousand minor covert action if you took a lower figure of several hundred a year if you took three hundred and multiplied it by 40 years the sea-ice been in business you come up with twelve thousand operations now the apologists leap up and say wait a minute most of

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leap up and say wait a minute most of these are benign nobody's getting greatly hurt in these things it's just minor things and that's undoubtedly true minor things that do not brutalize people like for example in 1984 when the elections were held in El Salvador the see I spent 2.2 million dollars to buy and rig those elections how do we know this this great pinko in Washington senator Jesse Helms went public and told us about it he was pissed because his choice of candidates had been Roberta that we son otherwise known as blowtorch ball and the CIA had selected the moderate Napoleon Duarte and so from his position on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he got himself briefed and then he went public he calls me a traitor when I do that but he immediately went public and revealed the secret information that the CIA had spent 2.2 million dollars he said they told him they had done everything but quote stuff the ballot boxes to make sure that our choice of candidates won now that might have not have been brutal and gory but it certainly makes a mockery of democracy and when you multiply several thousand such operations which are clearly illegal you have to face the question of whether or not the United States is in fact a lawful country in dealing with other countries internationally and many of these things are very bloody and gory indeed and we have a great deal of information they have been investigated time and again we've had six presidencies humiliated by these things since World War two again asking the question an answer and I'll point out which presidencies in which operation I'll just whip through a bunch of these operations to give you a sense of them and Onision 1965 the CIA ran an operation to discredit the Communist Party successful beyond its wildest dreams making it look like the party would rise up and attack the government until the government was to rise up instead and put them down and went out to the Communists and the world

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went out to the Communists and the world witnessed a bloodbath the New York Times reporting between half a million and a million and a half people killed the CIA's internal report estimated that 800,000 people had been killed look at page 58 of Ralph McGehee his book deadly DC's he had custody of this report at one time and the CIA was claiming that this was a model to be copied elsewhere in the world other classic CI covert actions Guatemala Brazil Guiana Chile the Congo Iran Panama Peru Bolivia Ecuador Uruguay the CI overthrew functioning democracies remember the Henry Kissinger quote when he was being grilled like Congress after the track 1 track 2 operation that overthrew and killed Salvador Allende the democratically elected president of Chile and Henry Kissinger's defense to the Congress was quote the issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves these things get it then to Wars there was a prolonged destabilization of China like what we're doing in Nicaragua parachuting teens from Quemoy and Matsu Burma Tibet Thailand into communist China to destabilize the country with the attendant propaganda to make us see them in the eyes of their being evil and of course the propaganda in effect of our destabilization making them hate us until if we eventually fought China in the Korean War and a million people were killed there was a long destabilization of North Vietnam despite Ho Chi Minh's offers a friendship at doing things like terrifying the Catholics that the Communists would would persecute them passing around exaggerated stories until the Catholics began to flee offering the land and money to any Catholic who would flee to the South our navy conveniently there two whole seven hundred and thousand people to the south then filming that in showing it on television here in the States the show Catholics fleeing from the horrors of communism

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fleeing from the horrors of communism until we got this nation involved in a way where we thought the Vietnam War and two million people were killed read for yourselves read the hidden history of the Korean War by I of stone read deadly deceptions again by Ralph McGehee who did two tours of duty in Vietnam read portrait of a cold warrior by Joseph Burt Foster Smith another case officer from Vietnam wreath fire in the lake by Frances Fitzgerald the daughter of Desmond Fitzgerald the sea eyes great chief of operations for Southeast Asia at those times in Thailand Taiwan Laos Vietnam Lee Congo Honduras and Angola the CI put together large standing armies and directed them to fight in Vietnam the Congo Cambodia Iran allows Nicaraguan Sri Lanka the CI armed and encouraged ethnic minorities to rise up and fight the first thing we did in Nicaragua was to go to the element of the Mosquito Indians including Steadman Fargo who had been on the CIA payroll previously and give them more money than they had seen in the entirety of history and arms and training and sent them back in to destabilize and then when the Nicaraguans reacted clumsily we had a great propaganda victory of Sandinistas persecuting minorities inside their own country in El Salvador Vietnam Korea Iran Uganda the Congo the CIA I trained and funded death squads the Treasury police in El Salvador responsible for many of the 50,000 or so people the Catholic Church reports have been killed down there in the last few years this unit was formed by the CI under the Alliance for Progress in the early 60s and we have testimony before our Congress as late as 1982 that its leaders were still on the CIA payroll then you have the public safety program I have to take a minute with this one because it has a moral to it this is the one where we were teaching torture throughout Latin America we had schools set up we graduated in the military and police thousands of officers who had been taught the techniques of torture now this one the

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techniques of torture now this one the international outcry eventually forced us to close it down our Congress had hearings you can get our own congressional record and read if you like if not get the book hidden terrors by a jail and gut I believe is a professor of journalism here at this school which condenses it down to a few pages that you can easily digest or see the film on company business or see the film state of siege or see on on Frank evictions recent film the houses are full of smoke showing in Los Angeles right now to get a feeling for this program and these techniques CI trainers teaching torture you're talking about the best and the brightest you're talking about people with engineering in psychology degrees refining the psychology and techniques of torture the most famous exponent of this thing was a man named Dan matryona we know about him because he was eventually kidnapped and executed and his body was brought back to the United States attention having been focused on it at the time the world was focusing on this program with the result that we know quite a bit about his activities seven years in Brazil three years in Uruguay teaching torture liaison with the police as we called it inside the CIA mastering it refining it to a science teaching torture how do you teach torture if I'm Dan matryona and your class of Brazilian police officers I give you a lecture I show you a CI training film I give you some material to read but you see sooner or later you've got to get your hands wet and so he would have beggars picked up off the streets to be used as guinea pigs in his torture training classes with the hope being of course they had no secrets to reveal they couldn't say stop hurting me here are the names of my brothers and sisters and whatnot one of the women who was tortured in Brazil for two years and eventually released from the international outcry and testified to international tribunal said that the horror went beyond the physical pain and degradation in the sense that she said if the torturers had been raving psychopaths she might have been able to break mental contact with them go crazy herself but she said they were saying

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herself but she said they were saying normal people talking to her as say normal people which made it harder for her to slip out and break away she told about this session where she's lying naked on this table in a room full of a half dozen men who were systematically doing these incredibly painful and degrading things to her body and there's an interruption the Americans called to the telephone in the next room the others take the smoke break and she listens to the conversation as he's saying oh hi honey yeah I can wrap it up here in

another hour or so and pick up the kids and meet you at the ambassador's on my way home now our society deals with sort of horror by saying that it's done by Aryan Gestapo maniacs in World War 2 and the Holocaust it's done by Slavic KGB monsters now the vogue in the missing in action films is it's done by sadistic Vietnamese Colonels but you see it's done by people including people from the United States if the society gets together and rationalizes that this is acceptable conduct then we do it people like you and me dan Mitrione ii was not a raving psychopath this man was a devoted Catholic he was a devoted family man he was a father of four he was a pillar of his community and yet he devoted his life to teaching the techniques of torture because his society had said that there's something so mystical about national security that it was a good thing for him to do with his life and when he was killed and exposed his body was brought back into the United States and given a hero's burial and the vice president attended to inspire the others so they wouldn't feel depressed about what had happened so they would continue these kinds of activities now you try to come to grips with this stuff and say how many people have been killed in these things what is the impact on the world you add up thousands of covert operations a million in Korea killed two million in Vietnam killed the Cambodian saying two to three million killed in the aftermath of our prolonged

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the aftermath of our prolonged manipulation and destabilization 800,000 in Indonesia 20,000 in the Angolan operation that I personally supervise 15,000 until today in Nicaragua you come up with millions millions of people who have died in these things so you start studying them and we have lots of them thoroughly documented in the record today and you study them and you find some shocking things looking for common denominators because the argument is it's a rough world out there it's a tough business maybe millions of people have to die to keep us safe and secure right but what you find for example is that since 1954 we do not parachute teams into the Soviet Union to brutalize people to make the children watch while we brutalized parents and all that sort of thing and coincidentally 1954 was the year in which the Soviet Union developed its first capability to drop atomic weapons on the United States you will note very quickly in reading these things we don't do these brutal destabilization in England and France and Germany in Sweden and Norway and Switzerland and Belgium and Holland etc they're all done in countries of the third world where the governments are not strong enough politically or militarily to force us to stop these destabilization these many millions of people who've been killed in these things are people of the Mutulu mountains of the Congo of the jungles of Southeast Asia and now the hills of northern Nicaragua who obviously don't have ICBMs and armies and navies they can't do physical hurt if they wanted to and there's generally no evidence whatsoever that they wanted to take for example the 15,000 Nicaraguan that we've killed in this war against communism down in Central America today these are 15,000 dragged poor peasants conspicuously we're not killing Russian advisers and Russian soldiers in Nicaragua we're not killing Cuban soldiers and Cuban advisers god help us

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soldiers and Cuban advisers god help us I hope we do not go down and start killing Cubans what we're killing down there is rag poor peasants communists they're almost all together Catholic enemies of the United States these thousands of witnesses have gone from this country down there to see for themselves invariably come back and report that the Nicaraguan people are the sweetest people on the face of the earth and they love people from the United States and they simply cannot comprehend why we would be doing these things so brutal to them and to their society now case officers who do these things overseas by the thousands as the Careers obviously they don't come back to the United States and suddenly click their heels and fall back into a respect for the legal process we have it thoroughly documented as well and in the question in that sir we can go into greater detail Yemi MH chaos program a billion dollar program to students and labor activities during the Vietnam War protests the MKULTRA program in which the United States was experimenting a big program 200 medical schools and mental hospitals experimenting on unwitting American citizens and the Church Committee revelation in 1975 that the CI had published over a thousand books paying professors to write books which the CI would edit to make sure that Fidel Castro or Ho Chi Minh or Chu and lie for Augustine Anette to our patrice lumumba were made to look evil and the Church Committee

revealed that the CIA was working with several thousand professors and graduate students building files on students they're even now getting so bold that they've just installed a permanent and officer in permanent residency on the UCSB campus this is something that's in the news right now today and and the Church Committee reported that the see I had built relationships with a hundred two hundred Bernstein reported in Rolling Stone

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Bernstein reported in Rolling Stone later on four hundred all together journalism's including some of the biggest names in the business the latest scandal that we have on that was two and a half years ago Leslie Gill the heavyweight of the New York Times was revealed by The Washington Post and then by his own paper that in 1970 a he had worked secretly for the CIA while masquerading as a New York Times journalist to recruit journalists in Europe who would print stories to create an atmosphere of sympathy for the neutron bomb so now you have the CI running these 50 to 100 to 150 covert operations around the world destabilizing god knows what percentage of countries in the world today mostly in the third world and propping up dictatorships and oligarchy that brutalized the people guaranteeing continuing instability and brutality because the people eventually relax react and the United States gearing up for its next war what has prevented us from invading Nicaragua in the last six years has been the will of the American people 70% of us polled as being opposed test for Weinberger saying not with my Defense Department unless it will be a popular and they couldn't sell it to us so they haven't done it yet but this is no guarantee because they've outwitted the people before throughout history people have been skeptical of war and the leaders have gotten sent to Wars if you read US history carefully you note that we've been in the business of being a country for about 200 years and over 200 times we've put our forces into other countries to force them to our will we spent 50 years at war we fought 15 major Wars the average amount of time between the end of one more on the beginning of the next one is 10 years the longest period of time I believe was between World War 1 and World War 2 and during that time we put 12,000 troops into an invasion of the Soviet Union we occupied several seven countries in this hemisphere including having our Marines occupying Nicaragua the American people have been taught successively to hate

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have been taught successively to hate and fight the Seminole Indians the Cherokee Indians the British Mexico twice the Plains Indians the Filipinos the Spanish in cuman's the Germans the Koreans the Soviets the Vietnamese and of course now the Nicaraguans cranking us up to fight in each case they have exploited dramatic events are created them to galvanize the national effort the National will Pearl Harbor Lusitania the battleship Maine the Gulf of Tonkin incident that was used to justify going into the Vietnam War it's now been 22 years since we went into Vietnam fourteen years since our troops withdrew so the wheel is turned the valve stem coming back down to the ground we seem to be logically time for another war so you look around at the society to see if in fact we're in a war mode and what you find is definitely militarization of society everywhere we're in the process of spending two trillion dollars on a military arms buildup that the greatest military buildup in the history of the world the glorification of war in this society begins at the age of two pull off the fact that we teach peace we claim we're a peaceful nation the truth is when a kid gets to be two we put them in front of the one-eyed babysitter and we turn it on and they watch shows all day long of what's called the American syndrome this is where you have nice little people were put upon by evil forts the nice little people by the way usually light-skinned always handsome the evil force is usually dark always ugly and the nice people say please be nice an evil forces persist and at the last minute the nice guys rise up and stomp them down and when cut commercial begin next show it's estimated that by the time we graduate from high school we spent more hours watching violence on television than we spent in the classrooms themselves then you look at the films were feeding ourselves since 1980 at a slightly older age as we're now in our current war mode Rambo

[00:36:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=2160s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=2160s)

now in our current war mode Rambo commando Red Dawn the rocky series under siege Delta Force America missing in action Top Gun heartbreaker age death before dishonor but too Full Metal Jacket hamburger hill and tour of duty all of them one way or another glamorizing war and then you have the Audubon Society a year and a half ago protesting that the women Marines jogging in the mornings were chanting I opened my window a bird flew in and I killed it I'm a lean mean marine and then you have these TV commercials join the army be all that you can be and they're fabulous you know these tanks jumping ditches and these computerized machinery and these helicopters that go 200 miles an hour in these laser controlled Cannon and I watch these things and despite my cynicism I find myself fitting for thank God you know if I were 30 years younger in my hands couldn't shake you know you get in these tanks and go jumping ditches and all these exciting things but having been there in three wars where people are lying on the ground dead I think as I'm sure I hope you do and I say what's missing something's missing and what's missing in these commercials and the answer is the footage of young men with their legs blown off at the knees or their intestines wrapped around their necks our little girls running down roads naked burning with napalm because that's what war is all about and the reason it's missing is because they're not out to educate you in these commercials they're reaching inside your breasts to punch the buttons of adrenaline and macho and testosterone to get you fired up to join the army to be all that you can be and be available to fight the next war of course kids were protesting on campuses they didn't want to be drafted and sent over there to kill people and be killed and governor Reagan said if there has to be a bloodbath let's get it over with and he was not talking about a bloodbath of young means he was talking about a bloodbath of American young people this man came into office in 1980 promising us the Reagan Revolution and I had the feeling nobody was listening like that was a propaganda buzzword and taking him

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was a propaganda buzzword and taking him nobody was taking him seriously perhaps because he missed speaks so often that he's almost comical so we didn't have to hold him accountable to his own words and what he believes in now I happen to be on record since 1983 as noting that this man has a defective mind now I would always I would always tell the audience's I don't take cheap shots and then I would make my case and then let them decide on't mind if you love the guy but he just shouldn't be president because his mind flips in and out and I don't bother doing this now because in the iran-contra hearing to escape the possibility of impeachment when we found he said he didn't know and then the finding was produced that he had signed and then the answer was given that well he didn't remember because he doesn't pay much attention you know to these important things but let me tell you what the Reagan Revolution is all about let me just review very quickly James Watt look at his appointment James Watt a man notoriously cynical views to our environment made Secretary of the Interior and Burford unshakable loyalty to the offending corporations put in charge of the EPA Elliott Abrams a notoriously insensitive man put in charge of the Human Rights Division of the State Department this was the office under Jimmy Carter Pat Darien that had been taking testimony of the refugees from the countries for Human Rights were abused in closing this office down they sent the files back to the police in the countries in question and then the i ns began to send the people back to the countries in question then you have Alfred Regnery this is the man who had the bumper sticker saying if you sock at your kid today his pediatrician went to Washington to testify to the Congress saying you can never give this man a job where he has to do with young people I know because I have to treat his children he was appointed to what the Juvenile Division of the Justice Department and then you have Kenneth

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Department and then you have Kenneth Adelman who disbelieves in arms agreements put in charge of the arms negotiating teams and then you have a long list of repressive laws passed curtailing your right to know what your government is doing and President Reagan bragging that he's appointed 45 percent of the federal judges to enforce those laws and Louis Chia Frieda came out during the hearings this summer FEMA the Federal Emergency Management Agency planning systematically for military takeover to suspend the Constitution to impose martial law working it out down to communities as to who will move where with what

forces to take power in this country and and anyway senator anyway stood up when it was brought up in the hearings and said we can't talk about it that it's secret I submit to you that in a democracy we have a right to know if someone is thinking about suspending our constitution and the fact that they want their plans to be secret has to be threatening their Clause cannot be just we are mature enough they said it's because it relates to nuclear war planning or war planning I submit to you that as citizens of a democracy we are we must be we can be responsible enough to debate and understand that in nuclear war the National Guard would have to be called out to prevent looting so why are they planning secretly to take away our our Constitution to suspend it and enclose martial law and the answer is it's called the Reagan Revolution that's what they call it now you've got to be screaming why why to all of this stuff it's been done by other presidents why why would we go to war every ten years fine with the CIA run ten thousand brutal destabilization of other societies why would we destabilize half of the countries in the world today when the world's already so unstable I don't know I study and read and try to figure this out myself I suggest to you that the answers lie in the area of aggression and economics one the easiest way to motivate people in this country

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way to motivate people in this country is the football pep rally thing reach inside and punch the buttons of macho aggression paranoia get people fired up to vote for you it's been done since the beginning of history follow me and I'll lead you to greatness we'll go kill our enemies before they come here and kill ourselves look at the rationales for Nicaragua there are now Russians flying airplanes in this hemisphere for the first time in history they say it's a two-day drive from Managua the Harlingen Texas they say it's a two-hour flight from Managua to San Diego they say it's closer from Managua to Houston Texas than from Houston to Maine they say there's a communist beachhead here in the community entrepreneur to get us worked up to support a warrant and then the economics come in we're not fighting for the bananas and coffee and cotton and Nicaraguan can produce we spent a billion dollars in the last seven years destabilizing that country and building bases in Honduras to support an eventual invasion we could never recover that from their coffee and cotton its economic at a different level simply put the dominant industry in this society is the military-industrial complex that's what President Eisenhower called it the profits from military spending or what are so attractive to the major corporation simply put they make 35% profit on building arms once again we're spending two trillion dollars on arms on this gigantic military buildup that we're in the process of right now this means the US taxpayer is carrying an enormous burden it's called a permanent war complex that we're supporting one-third of the current budget is for the military the Washington Post published a study last year in which it estimated that 53 cents of every tax dollar you pay goes to the military paying salaries Hardware overhead and paying off wars past to

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overhead and paying off wars past to sell this gigantic burden to the American people there has to be a hostile world if the world were peaceful we wouldn't buy it and this has to be one of the reasons that they have the CI out their destabilizing every corner of the world fueling the low cut low intensity conflicts all over the globe to ensure that there will be hostility and violence and danger so national security and national defense will be so important so they can sell that to us while they're cutting every social service possible in this country they're cutting care for the old the poor the handicapped farmers students because we can't afford the luxuries of taking care of our own people because we have to carry this gigantic enormous ly profitable military burden now the conservative intellectuals tell you that yes it's a little rough around the edges but it has worked in 200 years to make this the greatest country in the history of the world and I submit to you that by the same arguments we must re-examine those rationale because it is in fact the arms race that's breaking the United States and rendering us non-competitive with other countries arms do not return enough to the economy we have been carrying a military burden for the Western world while our allies who are also our economic competitors are building better television sets and cars and what not so we're losing in the in the balance of trade in the trade deficits and we're plunging deeply into debt the MX missile for example we build MX missiles the General Electric these corporations love to build them because they make huge profits on them but when you finish an MX missile you put it in the ground and you either close the

factory down or you build another one and another one and another one and another one and this is where you get into the second problem you see there's no ceiling on this kind of an industry you're not going to get X number of weapons and suddenly stop you have to continue the arms race forever for them to continue making

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forever for them to continue making these huge gigantic profits here's what we've got now we've got we've got the capacity utterly to destroy 85 Soviet Union surrender 20 planets uninhabitable for warm-blooded light and once again no ceiling on it when's it going to stop when we can render 25 planets uninhabitable potentially or 50 or a hundred or we actually do in fact render this planet uninhabitable here's where we've got in the world today we've got these cruise missiles pull off these 350 that will pull back from Europe and this IMF agreement we have these cruise missiles on submarines and bombers that can strike Moscow in seven minutes time that's not going to give them enough time to react to call us on the hotline to say we see missiles coming tell us it's not true or we'll have to shoot back if you could believe such a conversation and if the corporal's calling the captains and majors and generals to the Kremlin if the phone call could go through in time Gorbachev might be down the hall taking a crack and it would be all over for world before you know the message even got through to the Kremlin and they have their submarines up close to our shores so they can hit our cities in six minutes time as well now they tell us not to worry about these things because there fails say you know this tension and the machinery all pointed at each other like that it's failsafe but you know we can read can't we yeah I mean if you don't have time to read the big thick books you can read the newspaper articles or at least the headline just look at the headlines from last year the Challenger to blew up the Delta rocket blew up two Titans blew up the French air en missile blew up the Chernobyl plant melted down and a Soviet ss-18 blew up and that was not a particularly bad year the year before that 285 million dollar satellites went tumbling off into space and 65 million dollar launch had to be destroyed taking off from Cape Canaveral because it was hitting in the wrong direction a Soviet cruise missile went tooling

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a Soviet cruise missile went tooling over Norway teasing the early warning systems a Pershing to blew up on its pad in Germany and Texas Instruments was found to be selling faulty chips to the 80 defense contractors bomb falling out of airplanes now here's the problem with reading headlines as we forget last week's headlines much less last year we dropped four bombs accidentally over Spain they weren't triggered they didn't go walk you know oops sorry Spaniards if we made you a little nervous we dropped one off the coast of Portugal a plane crashed in North Carolina and five of the six safety devices when if the sixth one had gone it would have blown we dropped one accidentally over the swamps of South Carolina the planes going 400 miles an hour and turning and the pilots didn't register immediately what had happened and some minutes went by and they couldn't fix the coordinates simply put they never found it and so they eventually bought a huge tract of land and fenced it off and declared it a nuclear restricted zone and that bomb is now resting down in that water if it hasn't in fact been found by somebody else nobody knows submarine sinking into the ocean with nuclear weapons on board five of them two hours three of the Soviets we've recovered a couple of them at least three submarines down on the bottom of the ocean deepwater a submarine can import and rip apart and you have the nuclear weapons rusting on the bottom of the ocean today from at least three submarines hundreds of millions of gallons of radioactive wastes that we have no earthly idea of what to do about an stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons that get no press even the peace committee peace community don't talk about them very much because they don't catch your imagination because they don't have the boom effect the ejaculation that you know that app you know so we just sort of ignored them all together what's at stake in all of this is nothing more or less than a fate of the earth and that of course is the book that you have to read today or at least by tomorrow Jonathan shelf now press 1982 the fate of the earth he talks about the first death and the second

[00:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=3000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=3000s)

about the first death and the second death the first death is yours and mine and Ronnie and Nancy's and Margaret Thatcher's and Gorbachev and everybody else that's when we kill ourselves with this this game we're playing with these weapons and the second death simply put if the children you haven't had a chance yet to have and the grandchildren that I don't have the unborn generations of the human race that may never be because of our willingness to allow a few corporations motivate us with hate and paranoia and fear and anger so they can make 35 percent profits now you have to be screaming what can we do and the answer is it's a tough one we're up against an economic order that's locked into the United States and England and France and Germany and the Soviet Union all of them producing weapons far beyond any conceivable need and motivating their societies and the Soviet Union as here with fear and hate of each other how do we go up against this and make a change and the answer is at the top point people are debating is it possible or have we programmed ourselves to to self-destruct but we have to try because of what's at stake so you look at history for examples that would encourage you that it's you know that with that we could make dramatic social changes and you find some wonderful exciting examples I'll just fight two very quickly one the feminist movement eighty years ago a man could put his wife and sisters and daughters to work 12 hours a day seven days a week in factories and then take their salaries and pocket it saying only the man was wise enough to know how to spend the money of the family and that's been changed not by accident but by the determined struggles of feminist activists and they did it without cracking skulls and killing people and then you have the case of the professor who stopped a war my war the end young professor Gerry bendeth who's now with this university then at UC San Diego had

[00:52:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=3122s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZa4PA2ux2M&t=3122s)

this university then at UC San Diego had done his studies in Angola he saw what we were doing he tried this in that you know what power did he have how could he couldn't do anything about it so he picked up the telephone and called his senator one day and in mature term said senator tani I have an expertise in Angola I see what the CIA is doing I think they're lying to you I would appreciate the opportunity to brief you and the senator listened to amateur briefing Gerry didn't go in and accuse him of being you know part of the military industrial complex trying to kill us all but surely he briefed him and soon he went back to Washington and investigated and saw that it was true and introduced the funny amendment to the FBI 76 defense appropriation act that stopped my war in Angola in 1975 and 76 Helen Caldicott at the end of her lectures likes to tell people to get out and get to work on this problem Europe planet your world has a serious public health disease she says you'll feel better if you get out and get to work on it as opposed to sitting back in apathy wondering when the bombs are going to start going off and she points out if you do get out and get to work on it at least when or if the bombs do start going off at least you'll have the right to turn to your loved one and hug them and say honey at least we tried and then there's a lateral Iraq at the Center for Defense Information in Washington I went to see and I asked him I said Admiral I'm over my head you know people ask me what they can do and I have no idea what to tell him and he said oh I love this question he said I tell him I don't know you individually I can't know you I come and go but you know yourselves you know what your interest are your talents are if you can write write letters write telegrams write articles write books if you can organize organize if you can travel go to Nicaragua or wherever and see for yourself he says I tell them if they feel comfortable lying down in front of trucks with bombs on them to provoke the community to think about it lie down in front of trucks with bombs on them but

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front of trucks with bombs on them but he said the key is you've got to do what you can do every day of your life depending today you can't wait wait until you graduate in December or next summer or you get married or you get divorced or whatever for the simple reason that these things could malfunction any time there might not be a world here by the time you graduate next summer thank you very much for hearing me out [Music]

END

